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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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HEAVIER PUNISHMENT FOR GRAFTERS

America goes in for too much new legislation and not enough for punishment. We encourage crime and criminals by dealing too lightly with them. Half the time there are no arrests, three-fourths of the time there are acquittals, and almost every time the punishment is inadequate. America notoriously lags in putting grafters into prison. The consequence is that graft abounds to a shameful extent. This has been brought home anew by the sensational revelations concerning the conditions ruling building operations in New York state. The evidence reveals that graft has been carried on systematically, one might say scientifically. Unless the owner of a building in course of construction agreed to hand over graft for a so-called labor union dictator, the men on the job were ordered to quit. Even certain employers engaged in the building industry were in a ring which eliminated genuine competition and which paid over graft to the individual manipulating it. In short those embarking upon any building project were completely at the mercy of the grafters, grafters who could stop all work on a building at any moment. So far was this kind of robbery carried on that every member of our union had to pay over \$10 a week to the grafters in power. Others paid smaller weekly sums.

Public opinion should bestir itself and insist hereafter that every form of bribery and corruption and graft be punished by the severest of prison sentence. Merely taking from grafters, in the form of a fine a small part of the money illegally and shamefully scooped up by them is not punishment fitting the crime. The certainty of being sent for years to a penitentiary would deter at least a number of crooks from perpetrating graft. The grafter usually is a skunk who abhors having to work. The prospect of rounding him up into a chain-gang would cause him to think twice before laying himself open to such punishment. It is so often impossible to obtain decent evidence warranting conviction that when conviction is obtained the courts should impose the maximum punishment permitted by law.

The ingenious attempt made by the New York building grafters to condemn the whole investigation as a cloak attack upon organized labor should fool no one. Organized labor can have no truck with grafters, and happily labor's record in this respect has usually been creditable. The unfortunate workman who have been handing over \$10 every week to grafters should welcome this expose of the whole fraudulent intrigue, and every decent labor leader should endorse the flogging process now under way.

America has had waves of graft and waves of graft in the railroad world as well as occasional exposures of graft in high finance and big business. Progress has been made in eradicating bribery, corruption and graft in these directions. Let us not suppose submit to an era of graft by labor dictators. The proper place for them, the only place for them is the penitentiary.

SUPPRESSION OF TOBACCO PROPOSED.

Smokers in this country look with more or less amusement upon the agitation through the United States for an amendment to the United States constitution prohibiting the growing, manufacture, sale and use of tobacco in any form. But those who are backing the movement are very much in earnest in the matter as is evidenced by an article in the October issue of No Tobacco Journal, published at Butler, Indiana. The article dwells upon what it terms as the effective fight against alcohol in any form and goes on to say that "we will soon have little to trouble us but the tobacco habit, and the attention of the public will be centered upon it. Tobacco prohibition is the logical conclusion of human events which are rapidly tending in that direction at this very moment."

Here is a fine example of the spread of intolerance in this country. First an organization of fanatics backed by millions of dollars, succeeds by disreputable lobbying and bringing all sorts of pressure to bear upon the members of the legislatures in obtaining the passage of laws suppressing every form of alcoholic drink, even harmless light wines and beer. This encourages the tobacco haters and they conclude that they can by similar methods make it a crime to grow tobacco or to use it in any form. And so they launch their attack spreading their propaganda in the hope that some circumstances will arise by which they may be enabled to "slip one over" on the people of this nation in the form of an anti-tobacco law.

The people of this nation, however, are no longer asleep on questions of intolerance such as this. They have learned through bitter experience with the prohibition act of folly of allowing suppressive laws to be passed, and they are determined the hereafter the question of personal rights and privileges shall be decided by each man for himself rather than by the laws of the nation. The anti-tobacco law has no chance of being passed but it is possible that the people of this country will be bombarded with a lot of foolish propaganda before the sponsors of the proposed bill give up the fight as hopeless.

ECONOMY A DUTY OF EACH.

In the great campaign for readjustment to a sound peace basis there is no higher priority than personal economy. This nation wasted, or as good as wasted for economic purposes, twenty billions of dollars on the European war expanding prices twenty billions more. If every family of five in this country would save and lay by in the banks a thousand dollars this coming year that immense waste would be made up. Then there would be an abundance of capital to build railroads, undertake great reclamation and irrigation works, build homes to relieve the house shortage and extend mining and utilities. But without economy on the part of the individual there can be no storage of reserve capital to undertake development.

While the United States, in the present inflamed state of the world, must needs keep itself prepared for war, yet it should do all possible to keep out of war, which is its traditional policy.

Army Men Plentiful But Officers Scarce

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.—Little difficulty in obtaining the 250,000 men necessary to make up the peace-time army authorized by congress is anticipated, Major General March, chief-of-staff, said in his annual report just made public by the war department. The problem of obtaining the 17,717 officers needed for the reorganized army is difficult, however, and was rendered more so, General March said, by the delay in the enactment of legislation governing the reorganization of the army.

The general added that the problem was further complicated by the resignation of 1647 regular officers in the fiscal year ending last June 30, the period covered by his report. Approximately 15,000 applications from former officers and reserve officers for transfer to the regular establishment were received by the war department before the lists were closed, the general continued, and the task of selecting from these applicants the 10,000 additional officers needed to fill out the army quota is still under way.

Western Asia Will Be Explored by Americans

(By Associated Press)

CHICAGO, Nov. 19.—Recovery of the "lost chapters in the career of man" hidden in the ancient buried cities of western Asia is an imminent possibility and an American responsibility, Dr. James Henry Breasted of the University of Chicago, reports. Dr. Breasted, who is professor of Egyptology and oriental history, there, has recently returned from a survey of most of the important buried cities of the near east.

The collapse of the Ottoman empire has opened the birth-lands of civilization to unrestricted investigation, Dr. Breasted said. "It is evident," he added, "that there rises before us an opportunity unprecedented in the history of humanistic research."

"The great centers of human life in the ancient world, the mighty cities and capitals of Babylonia, Assyria, Persia, Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor and Egypt, the region where the earliest civilized societies arose out of savagery and barbarism to bring civilization to barbarian Europe—all these treasures of human records, which are rapidly perishing in the whole region about the western end of the Mediterranean lie there silently awaiting the spade of the excavator."

It will be possible to clear up the leading ancient buried cities of western Asia within the next 25 or 30 years, or perhaps a generation, given sufficient funds and adequate personnel, according to Dr. Breasted. The task rests with American orientologists, he said, because no other country has the available resources.

PRICE OF WHEAT HIGH IN CANADA

(By Associated Press)

WINNIPEG, Canada, Nov. 24.—A final dividend of 18 cents a bushel will be paid to farmers by the Canadian wheat board, according to an announcement made after a recent audit of the books of the board. The payment will be made on "participation certificates," the method used by the Canadian government to return to farmers profit made by the government on their 1919 wheat above the guaranteed price.

This payment will bring the 1919 price, based on northern wheat in storage at Fort William, to \$2.63 a bushel, or an average price throughout the year of \$2.50 at points of shipment in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

CALIFORNIA MAY BUILD STADIUM

(By Associated Press)

BERKELEY, Cal., Nov. 22.—The University of California will have a concrete athletic stadium rivaling that of Harvard and Yale, if present plans of the college authorities are carried out, according to R. W. Cortelyou, assistant graduate manager. The stadium would cost about \$400,000, Cortelyou said, part of which will be paid out of the Henry Cowell bequest to the university, which will be available soon.

The students intend to secure a large portion of the cost from the advance sale of tickets. The demands for tickets to the annual "big game" between the University of California and Stanford university of November 28 indicated, it was said, that the stadium must seat more than 60,000, the seating capacity of the Harvard stadium.

Location books are now for sale. The only way to preserve an advertisement in The Bonanza.

REV. D. S. K. BYRNE



Rev. David S. K. Byrne of Montreal, who will soon enter into possession of the \$10,000,000 estate of the late W. G. Byrne, Mr. Byrne in 1907 was David S. Kido, a tea salesman of Toronto, in Chicago on business. He saved the daughter of W. G. Byrne from the slums and was made his heir.

NEW SYSTEM IN TACOMA SCHOOLS

(By Associated Press)

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 24.—Proposed radical changes in the public school system here will be placed before the voters December 7. The school board is asking for a bond issue of \$2,450,000 so that a plan of Superintendent W. F. Geiger for the creation of intermediate schools may be put into effect.

Under the new plan, present school buildings here would house the first six grades. In these lower grades increased facilities for physical and manual training would be provided, and a comprehensive kindergarten department added.

Construction of five new buildings, located in strategic sections, would then be undertaken. These structures would house the seventh, eighth and ninth school grades and would be especially designed for pupils of that age with extended courses in manual training, domestic science and physical development.

The high schools of the city would then reduce their courses from four to three years, the ninth grade in the intermediate schools taking over the first year of high school work.

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